



**STATE OF DELAWARE**  
**Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**Meeting Date and Time:** January 25, 2013 at 1:00PM

**Meeting Location:** Appoquinimink State Service Center in Middletown, DE

**In Attendance:**

**Commissioners:**

Ms. Aleks Casper  
Ms. Patricia Ciranni  
Mr. C. Malcolm Cochran, Esquire  
Dr. Garrett H. C. Colmorgen, Chair  
Cpl. Adrienne Owen  
Ms Mary Ann Crosley  
Ms. Tania M. Cully, Esquire  
Ms. Marjorie Lynn Hershberger  
Dr. Amanda Kay  
Chief Kevin McDerby  
Ms. MaryAnn Mieczkowski  
Dr. Phillip Shlossman  
Mr. Rodney Brittingham

**Others:**

Ms. Rosalie Morales

**Staff:**

Ms. Anne Pedrick  
Ms. Ashlee Starratt  
Ms. Angela Birney

**I. Call to Order**

Dr. Garrett H. C. Colmorgen called the meeting to order at 1:31PM.

## **II. Old Business**

The meeting minutes from November 30, 2012, were accepted as written.

## **III. New Business**

### **a. Executive Director Report**

In 2009, *Every Child Matters* and the *National Coalition to End Child Abuse* partnered together in order to continue to bring the issue of child abuse and neglect resulting in death to the attention of the public and lawmakers. Since the Coalitions inception in 2010, the Coalitions have worked to increase public awareness of child fatalities and to enlist the federal government in elevating the issue. This coalition has presented at Congressional Staff Educational Briefings, acted as consultants to the Government Accountability Office for its study on child abuse fatalities, provided expert witness testimony at the Congressional Hearing, and assisted in the drafting of Protect Our Kids Act (S. 1984 & HR 3653).

As a result of the Protect Our Kids Act, a twelve person committee will be formed in order to review and evaluate the effectiveness of child death and near death reviews on a national level. In addition, Delaware has been selected as one of seven states that will participate in the development of a matrix to track and better assess the effectiveness of such reviews. This meeting will occur in late March with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

### **b. Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium (DHMIC)**

The DHMIC Annual Summit will be held on April 17, 2013. During this Summit the Safe to Sleep Campaign, which will address public awareness and provider/professional responsibility, will be launched. The media campaign, under the auspices of Worlds Ways, will also be incorporated into the Safe to Sleep Campaign. The title of the campaign has been termed *Long Live Dreams*. It is anticipated that the campaign will conduct a photo shoot by the third week of February and that the full program will be launched by late spring.

### **c. Cribs For Kids**

The Delaware Cribs for Kids poster submission (developed by CDNDSC and the Delaware Perinatal Collaborative) will be presented at the National Cribs for Kids conference in June.

- d. Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC)** Legislative season is fast approaching. Therefore, any legislation that is being considered and falls under the purview of CPAC should be presented at the CPAC Legislative Subcommittee for review on March 22, 2013.

Additionally, Mr. Cochran is in the process of drafting the report for the CPAC/CDNDSC Committee on the Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse Cases. Thus far, the committee has identified a disparity in the resources allotted to the Department of Justice and law enforcement. Specifically, these two entities are facing resource challenges that have hindered their ability to effectively investigate and prosecute such cases. There is also an inadequacy in the collection of data as it pertains to the criminal dispositions and a lack of uniformity in coding and coordinated data collection. The draft report is to be presented before the Committee in February 2013.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to exit Executive Session.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to adjourn the meeting at 3:15PM.